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There May Be One Tiny Blessing In The Fiasco Staged In Cuba

It is difficult to minimize the loss of prestige suffered by the United States as a result of the recent Cuban fiasco.

No amount of defense of our position in being party to an unsuccessful effort to overthrow the Castro government is sufficient to make the picture look better.

There is, however, one tiny bit of silver lining in the cloud: The nation learned some lessons, primarily among which is that the Central Intelligence Agency, as presently constituted, must be shaken up from top to bottom.

The point we hope to make here is that it may be a blessing that the CIA's inadequacy became so spectacularly evident in the Cuban situation rather than at some later date when the results of error could be much more disastrous.

True enough, the United States, by becoming party to an ineffective invasion,

may appear to be a real "Paper Tiger." But if our nation is to take on this character, it is far better that it did so in Cuba than at a point like Berlin.

It is to be hoped that the Kennedy administration realizes the fact that failure of the CIA can have far-reaching and disastrous effect upon the morale of our armed forces and American citizens generally.

People have reason to suspect that one reason for CIA's miserable performance in the Cuban and other instances is the fact that it has been an agency privileged to operate secretly and not required to report to other divisions of government.

The American government can hardly exist if one division knows nothing of what the other is doing.

From its performance thus far, we are convinced that the CIA has had little information to keep secret.